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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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ROCK CLIMBER WARREN MACDONALD TELLS HIS STORY OF TRAGEDY AND TRIUMPH AFTER LOSING BOTH HIS LEGS

Ten ticket holders will win the chance to go rock climbing with Warren at the Medicine Hat Family YMCA

Medicine Hat – The Medicine Hat Alberta Summer Games Society and the Esplanade Arts and Heritage Centre are pleased to present ***Reaching Higher with Warren MacDonald*** at the Esplanade on Tuesday, June 3 at 7 p.m.

Warren MacDonald will talk about the inspiration behind his autobiographical book ***A Test of Will: One Man's Extraordinary Story of Survival***. This event is part of the Literary Arts component of the Cultural Committee devoted to enhancing the cultural aspect of the 2008 Alberta Summer Games.

Warren MacDonald's life boundaries were redefined in April 1997 when he became trapped beneath a one-ton boulder on the tallest peak of North Queensland's Hinchinbrook Island in Australia. He was rescued two days later, only to undergo the amputation of both of his legs.

Six years later, he became the first double above-knee amputee to reach the summit of Africa's tallest peak, Mt Kilimanjaro (19,222 ft), and more recently created history in an ascent of America's tallest cliff face, El Capitan. He is also the only above-knee amputee to make an ascent of Alberta's own "Weeping Wall."

"We started out looking for authors who could speak to youth about their experience in writing. But when we found Warren, the tie between the literary arts and athleticism – with an incredible story of motivation and inspiration behind it, was too good to pass up," says Terra Rogowski, Chair of the Literary Arts Committee for the Games.

As an added bonus, ten people from the audience on June 3 will win the chance to go rock climbing with Warren the following morning at the Medicine Hat Family YMCA.

"I can't think of a better way to get the youth in our community and across Alberta excited about the Games!" adds Rogowski.

Warren has appeared on numerous news and current affairs programs, including "Larry King Live," "The Oprah Winfrey Show," and "The Hour with George Stroumboulopoulos." ***A Test of Will*** was the subject of an episode on the Discovery Channel, and his film "The Second Step" has been acclaimed worldwide, screening on National Geographic Television and winning eight international awards including Grand Prize at the prestigious "Banff Mountain Film Festival."

Tickets for ***Reaching Higher with Warren MacDonald*** are on sale now for $15 at the Esplanade Box Office and Medicine Hat Mall, online at www.tixx.ca or by calling 403.502.8777.

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A facility of Medicine Hat The Gas City

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